

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BUCAR 00755 241658Z

42

ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SNM-02 SS-14 SP-02 L-01 SY-02 INR-05

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FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1808

INFO AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUCHAREST 0755

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, RO

SUBJ: CUSTOMS-TO-CUSTOMS RELATIONS WITH EASTERN EUROPE ON
NARCOTICS MATTERS

REF: STATE 035502, PRAGUE 0355, BUCHAREST 5435 (NOTAL)

1. AS WE HAVE PREVIOUSLY REPORTED (REFTELS) THE GOR:

(1) DOES NOT YET CONSIDER THE TRAFFIC OF NARCOTICS WITHIN
ROMANIAN BORDERS TO BE A MAJOR PROBLEM, (2) INTERNALLY HAS
ASSIGNED BASIC RESPONSIBILITY FOR CONTROL OF NARCOTICS TO
ITS CUSTOMS SERVICE, (3) IS RESPONDING COOPERATIVELY AT
PRESENT TO A FRAGILE BUT NONETHELESS EXISTING RELATIONSHIP
WITH THE U.S. CUSTOMS SERVICE.

2. WE DO NOT CONTEST THE ASSERTION THAT OVER THE LONG
HAUL THE OBVIOUS U.S. COUNTERPART ORGANIZATION TO DEAL
WITH THE GOR ON NARCOTICS MATTERS IS DEA. WE WOULD SAY IT IS
NOT SO MUCH A QUESTION THAT THE GOR PREFERS CUSTOMS TO CUSTOMS
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PAGE 02 BUCAR 00755 241658Z

CONTACTS FOR POLITICAL REASONS, BUT RATHER THAT THESE CONTACTS

ARE SO FAR THE MORE LOGICAL ONES GIVEN THE ASSIGNMENT OF RESPONSIBILITIES HERE, NOR DO WE BELIEVE GOR OFFICIALS WOULD REFUSE TO DEAL WITH DEA OFFICIALS. OUR PROBLEM THEREFORE IS SIMPLY THAT WE BELIEVE FOR THE PRESENT WE OUGHT TO STICK WITH A CONNECTION THAT IS WORKING, HOWEVER TENUOUS THAT CONNECTION MAY BE. IT WOULD NOT BE QUESTION OF US CUSTOMS INTERVENING; US CUSTOMS IS ALREADY INVOLVED. WE DO NOT BELIEVE, IN SHORT, THAT IT MAKES ANY SENSE AT THIS TIME TO INSERT INTO THE ROMANIAN NARCOTICS SCENE A NEW ORGANIZATION (DEA), NEW FACES, AND NEW PROCEDURES SOLELY ON THE GROUNDS THAT FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF THE WASHINGTON BUREAUCRATIC SCENE BASIC RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE CONDUCT OF RELATIONS WITH DRUG LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS LIES WITH DEA.

3. WE THEREFORE RECOMMEND THE FOLLOWING SCENARIO. WE STICK WITH WHAT WE HAVE FOR THE MOMENT. THE RELATIONSHIP HAS TAKEN A LOT OF PATIENCE AND TIME TO FORGE, AND IT IS WORKING. MEANWHILE, THROUGH A NEW OPENING AT THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR WE WILL BEGIN TO LAY THE GROUNDWORK FOR EVENTUALLY SHIFTING THE ACTION TO DEA. SINCE OUR CONTACT WITH THE INTERIOR MINISTRY IS ONLY AT THE FORMATIVE STAGE, WE DO NOT NOW HAVE A CLEAR IDEA OF HOW LONG AND HOW MUCH NUTURING IT WILL TAKE TO MAKE THIS CHANGE. WE WILL, OF COURSE, KEEP YOU ADVISED OF OUR PROGRESS.

BARNES

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